

EGLIN AFB RETIREE NEWSLETTER

July 2010

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Air Force Retirees Opting Out of Hardcopy

Apparently more and more USAF retirees are asking to receive the AFTERBURNER via e-mail. If you do so we recommend you also sign-up to receive Eglin's Retiree News via e-mail. Call 882-5916 or send an e-mail to 96abwcvr@eglin.af.mil

New Base Entry System Will Require Eglin Retirees, Family Members to Register For Access

The Air Force is implementing a new base access system that will on ID cards being scanned as personnel enter the base. When implemented at Eglin, Security Forces will have registration locales

stationed around the base to facilitate one time registration for retirees. Security Forces will notify base users approximately 2 months before implementation.

Joint basing is changing signs at gates, but mergers have little impact on retirees

Joint basing is DOD concept to streamline base support services where multi-service bases are located in the same geographic area.

Eglin is not affected by Joint basing, however, if you travel and rely on Air Force bases for support you may be impacted by the Joint Basing concept.

Joint basing is being done in two phases. Phase 1 bases have already stood up and are fully operational. These joint bases include:

- Joint Base McGuire, Dix Lakehurst: McGuire AFB-Fort Dix- Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst,: Air Force is agency responsible
- Joint Base Myer-Henderson: Fort Myer-Henderson Hall, Army is agency
- Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington: Andrews AFB-Naval Air Facility Washington, Little Creek-Fort Story, VA, Air Force is the Agency
- Joint Region Marianas, (which includes Andersen Air Force Base). Air Force is the Agency
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Phase 2 bases will be transitioning people, real property and services to the joint base command over the next eight months. They should be fully operational by Oct. 1. The joint bases in Phase 2 include:

- Joint Base Lewis Mchord includes Fort Lewis-McChord AFB, Army in the Joint Agency
- Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling: Anacostia Naval Facility-Bolling AFB,
- Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson: Elmendorf AFB-Fort Richardson
- , Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam; Pearl Harbor Naval Base-Hickam AFB
- Joint Base Charleston, Charleston AFB and Charleston Navy Yard
- Joint Base Langley-Eustis: Langley AFB-Fort Eustis
- Joint Base San Antonio: includes Randolph AFB, Lackland AFB and Fort Sam Houston

Total Force Service Center delivers virtual connection

The Total Force Service Center delivers personnel services to regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Reserve, civilian and retiree populations through a virtual connection of the Air Force's personnel services centers.

"TFSC" is the term for the virtual connection of the Air Force Personnel Center in San Antonio and the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver. These centers provide Airmen seamless access to

personnel information services and tools at any time and from any location by calling 800-525-0102.

‘Tricare U.’ offers free benefits courses

Individuals can take an on-line course in order to become more familiar with TRICARE. Sign up for the TRICARE course at <http://www.tricare.mil/tricareu>

Air Force Retiree Services does not maintain mailing addresses nor can its staff access files to change someone’s address.

Neither does the EGLIN RAO maintain mailing addresses. Retirees and annuitants must notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service with their changes. To change and address call 1-800-321-1080 or go to your account and change your address at the myPay website: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

Veterans' grave medallion available for order

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced June 29 that the Department of Veterans Affairs is offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased's status as a veteran.

"For veterans not buried in a national or state veterans cemetery, or those without a government grave marker, VA is pleased to offer this option that highlights their service and sacrifices for our country," said Secretary Shinseki.

The new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Under federal law, eligible veterans buried in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the new medallion, but not both. Veterans buried in a national or state veterans cemetery will receive a government headstone or marker of the standard design authorized at that cemetery.

The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1½ inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded burial flag adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word "Veteran" at the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

Next of kin will receive the medallion, along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover.

More information about VA-furnished headstones, markers and medallions can be found at www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmtype.asp
<<http://lyris.dmasa.dma.mil/t/2428941/4650142/11786/0/>> .

VA is currently developing an application form for ordering the medallion. Until it is available, applicants may use the form for ordering government headstones and markers, VA Form 40-1330. Instructions on how to apply for a medallion are found on the VA website at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp
<<http://lyris.dmasa.dma.mil/t/2428941/4650142/11787/0/>> .

Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or grave marker.

The new medallions will be available only to veterans buried in private cemeteries without a government headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3 million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict -- from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan -- are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the VA website on the Internet at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. (Courtesy of VA News

Air Force Web site offers legal assistance

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFRNS) -- Next time clients need a will, power of attorney or just have a legal question, they can visit the new Air Force Legal Assistance Web site at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>
<<http://lyris.dmasa.dma.mil/t/2422419/4650142/11419/0/>> . The Web site is designed for active-duty and reserve component members, retirees and dependents.

Officials created the Web site to increase efficiency and track client satisfaction with the Air Force legal assistance program. Because it is a public site, clients may access the site's features from the comfort of their homes without a common access card.

The site's features include:

- Legal topics: Short papers on common legal-assistance topics such as wills and family law issues. It also contains links to other helpful sites.

- Legal worksheets: Access to online questionnaires for wills, living wills and powers of attorney. After completing the online worksheet, the Web site provides each client a unique "ticket number." Data entered by clients is secure and may be accessed only after clients visit their local legal office and provide their ticket numbers to legal office officials.

- Online survey: Following a visit to the legal office, clients are encouraged to provide feedback concerning the professionalism and helpfulness of Air Force legal professionals.

Many clients have visited a legal office to obtain a will or other legal document and realized, after arriving, that they needed to gather more information or documents from home. Sometimes clients have realized they needed to speak with their spouse about an issue.

Completing an online worksheet will help minimize these multiple visits. By filling out an online worksheet, clients will be able to consider critical issues before visiting the legal office.

After receiving a ticket number, clients bring it to the legal office. An attorney or paralegal will then access a client's data with the ticket number and prepare the appropriate legal documents.

While the Web site increases convenience for clients, everyone should note the following:

- Information on the Web site is for educational and informational purposes only. The Web site cannot replace consultation with a local judge advocate general, and Airmen should never rely solely on the Web site when making decisions.

- Clients will not have the ability to print a legal document from the Web site. Clients will need to visit the legal office and provide their ticket numbers in order to obtain their legal documents.

The Eglin Legal Office advises that their schedule is as follows:

Notary, Power of Attorney, and DD Form 1840/1840R intake services are available on a walk-in basis Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Wednesday 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Legal Assistance walk-in hours to speak with an attorney are Monday from 1 to 3 p.m. and Wednesday 9 to 11 a.m.

Will appointments are available Tuesday from 8:30 -10:30 a.m. and Thursday 1 - 3 p.m. Wills are completed by appointment only.

Call (850) 882-4611 to make an appointment.

-- The Web site is designed for client convenience, but no one is required to use the Web site before visiting the legal office. (Courtesy of Air Force News Service)

Release No. 06-04-10, June 10, 2010

Retiree couples can sample AF Enlisted Village life

SHALIMAR, Fla. (AFRNS) -- Air Force Enlisted Village officials are currently welcoming retired military couples to sample life at Teresa Village by making guest apartments available for a minimal fee.

Teresa Village is located in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and is close to shopping, beaches, fishing, golf, and military installations. Potential residents staying in the guest apartments can use the swimming pool and recreation areas at Teresa Village and are encouraged to participate in the many and varied activities such as ice cream socials, potlucks, parties, picnics and special outings.

The two bedroom apartments at Teresa Village are very affordable and offer a worry-free lifestyle, according to officials. The following amenities are included with the Teresa Village apartments: transportation, basic cable television, security, free laundry service, gardening plots, activities and trips, volunteer opportunities, maintenance, library, community room, chapel, grounds-keeping, water, sewer, trash collection, basic kitchen appliances, carpeting, and central air and heat.

People interested in trying the active life at Teresa Village can contact the Air Force Enlisted Village admissions office at 850-651-9422 to discuss eligibility and make a reservation for a guest apartment.

The Air Force Enlisted Village was founded in 1967 to provide a safe, secure and dignified place for indigent surviving spouses of retired Air Force Airmen.

Air Force Enlisted Village: <http://www.afenlistedwidows.org>

<<http://lyris.dmasa.dma.mil/t/2402732/4650142/3531/0/>>

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